

## **Meth Report Summary**

In early March, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reported on the rising number of people obtaining treatment for meth abuse.

The report compared findings in 1993 and 2003.

The national average rate was 56 admissions for meth treatment for every 100,000 people at least 12 years old. The national rate increased from 13 during that 11-year period, a growth of 330 percent.

Montana ranked ninth, with an admission rate of 133 per 100,000 population. Montana's rate increased 343 percent from 30 per 100,000. In 1993, Montana had the country's fifth highest rate of admissions for meth treatment.

The report noted the West had the largest number of states exceeding the national average. Only three of the 13 states – Alaska, Arizona and New Mexico – were below the national rate. Four western states – California, Hawaii, Oregon and Wyoming – had rates four times higher than the national average.

Oregon led the nation with a rate of 251 admissions for every 100,000 residents at least 12 years old.

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The latest information from the Connections Corrections program, which is located in Butte and has treated nearly 1,900 offenders for drug dependency problems since it opened eight years ago, shows the prevalence of meth.

Statistics from 2005 indicate meth is equal to alcohol as the “drug of choice” for those in the program and that women are about twice as likely to prefer meth over alcohol.

Over the life of the program, the data show 49 percent of men consider alcohol their drug of choice and about 27 percent name meth. Among women, meth easily eclipses alcohol as the preferred drug, 40 percent to 30 percent.

But the data also demonstrate that meth is becoming increasingly popular in more recent years. In 2005, the rate for men was almost 37 percent and the rate for women was 49 percent.

The numbers are even larger for offenders who identify meth as one of their drugs: 95 percent for women and 85 percent for men.